



For Immediate Release
Contact: Rich Bearup (517) 712-1113

September 4, 2007

Children's Trust Fund Announces Appointment of Deputy

The Children's Trust Fund of Michigan (CTF) is pleased to announce the appointment of Janell M. Thelen of Fowler as its new Program Director.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NANCY J. MOODY, CHAIR
Business Community

REBECCA BAHAR-COOK
Local Councils

ABBY B. DART
Parent Community

RENEE T. FARHAT-LOEPP
Public Member

ANITA G. FOX, J.D.
Legal Community

GREGORY SCOTT HOLZMAN,
M.D.
Community Health

SGT. GREG JONES
State Police

SHIRLEY MANN GRAY, M.S.W.
Professional Providers

DOUG M. PATERSON, M.P.H.
Public Member

PAUL N. SHAHEEN
Professional Providers

SCOTT M. STEVENSON
Volunteers

Human Services

TAMARA D. VANDER ARK
Organized Labor

CAROL L. WOLENBERG
Public Instruction

SOPHIE J. WOMACK, M.D.
Religious Community

MEMBERS OF THE
BOARD OF
DIRECTORS ARE
APPOINTED BY
THE GOVERNOR
WITH THE
CONSENT OF THE
SENATE PER
PUBLIC ACT 250
OF 1982

RICHARD S. BEARUP
Executive Director

In announcing her appointment, CTF's Executive Director Rich Bearup said that Ms. Thelen will begin her new duties September 10th.

Ms. Thelen is a graduate of Michigan State University, earned an MBA, and is a Certified Public Accountant. She has been in state public service since 1998 and was previously associated with the accounting firms of Abraham & Gaffney (St. Johns) and Stuart, Heins and Wise (Lansing).

In her new position she will be responsible for the Trust Fund's child abuse and neglect prevention programs funded and administered by the CTF under a statute sponsored in 1982 by then State Representative (now United States Senator) Debbie Stabenow.

Now in its 25th year, CTF has raised and granted more than \$60 million for child abuse prevention programs in all of the state's 83 counties. CTF currently funds 72 local child abuse prevention councils and 81 additional community-based non-profit programs in every region of the state.

Since its founding, CTF has never used state general tax funds for its operations. Proceeds for the child maltreatment programs it grants to local communities come largely from charitable donations, such as from the voluntary state income tax checkoff box, from the sale of CTF license plates by the Michigan Secretary of State and from the annual Cherish the Children Auction held the first Tuesday of every May at MSU's Breslin Center.

The underlying endowment for the Trust Fund is now in excess of \$22 million.

"The Children's Trust Fund is fortunate to have Janell Thelen join and help lead our team," Bearup said. "She brings excellent experience, outstanding skills and an impressive record of accomplishment to us."

CTF is governed by a fifteen-member Board of Directors which is appointed by the Governor with advice and consent of the Senate. The Board hires the Executive Director and sets overall policy for the Trust Fund. The Executive Director and Program Director are responsible for day-to-day operations and decisions.

Ms. Thelen and her husband reside in Fowler with their four children.

#